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 CIA 1.01 Marchetti, Victor
 Osborn, Howard
 Obft, David

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U. S. Attempts to Muzzle Writer Who Was CIA Man

By PAT SLOYAN
 News American
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WASHINGTON — The Nixon administration is attempting to silence a former Central Intelligence Agency employee who wants to publish an article the agency contends will cause "grave and irreparable harm" to the United States.

Named by the Justice Department in a civil suit to block publication of "Twilight of the Spooks" was Victor L. Marchetti who resigned in 1969 as special assistant to the No. 2 man at the CIA.

However, a spokesman for Marchetti denied there were any violations of security involved in the Marchetti article.

David Obft, Marchetti's literary agent, called the administration action "ridiculous."

"WE PLAN TO fight this," Obft said. "Marchetti is no hippie trying to reveal secrets. He is just making some legitimate criticisms based on some 14 years experience at the CIA. We think the administration is trying to silence this criticism."

At the same time Obft said the article in question had been withdrawn from Esquire magazine. Obft said Marchetti has decided to write a book which

will be published next year by Knopf Publishers.

The Marchetti article, according to the Justice Department, was scheduled for publication in a national magazine. The CIA in a Justice Department suit said it had intercepted the article along with an outline for a Marchetti book from an unidentified person who had handed it over to a CIA agent in New York.

IN A DEPOSITION filed with the suit, CIA Director Richard Helms argued that the Marchetti article would be a breach of national security.

"Disclosure of this information will compromise currently active intelligence sources and intelligence gathering operations, will cause grave and irreparable harm to the national defense interests of the United States and will seriously disrupt the conduct of this country's foreign relations," Helms said.

Marchetti has been interviewed by a number of newsmen, the Justice Department suit said. The suit listed more than 30 separate occasions in which Marchetti was quoted both in U. S. and foreign press accounts.

LAST YEAR a fictional account of CIA operations was written and published by

Marchetti. According to Obft, the fictional account, a novel called "The Rope Dancers," was published after it was cleared by the CIA.

One administration official said Marchetti's revelations could have substantially more impact on the national security than the Pentagon Papers, the classified history of the Vietnam war published last year by the New York Times.

In another deposition filed with the suit, Howard J. Osborn, director of security for the CIA, contended Marchetti has violated his agreement of secrecy with the CIA in earlier news interviews and articles.

"I HAVE DETERMINED that information contained in those public statements constituted the disclosure of information covered by terms of the secrecy agreements entered into by Marchetti on Oct. 9, 1955," the date Marchetti joined the CIA, Osborn said.

The suit also seeks to force Marchetti to turn over all documents he may have in his possession that may relate to CIA operations.

But Obft said the only CIA documents Marchetti had were a page from a CIA telephone directory and a letter to the Marchetti children from Helms.